



## HEALTH DIVISION

OAKLAND COUNTY EXECUTIVE L. BROOKS PATTERSON

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Testimony in Opposition to House Bill 4425 and 4426

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Mr. Chairman and distinguished members of the Committee on Education Reform, we are here representing the Oakland County Health Division which provides public health services for Oakland County's 1.2 million people.

Today I am speaking on the damage House Bill 4425 and 4426 would do to the ability of local public health to prevent epidemics and the rollback of immunization progress that would occur.

A basic tenant of public health is prevention. This pair of bills would remove a key tool of local public health to prevent disease. Exclusions are currently exercised with caution and balanced with consideration given to the right of all children to an education. Even in Oakland County with over 270,000 children under the age of 18, during the current school year exclusions have only occurred three times affecting only 23 children. These bills would allow exclusions only after an epidemic is already occurring and likely result in the need for even more exclusions than otherwise would have been initially necessary.

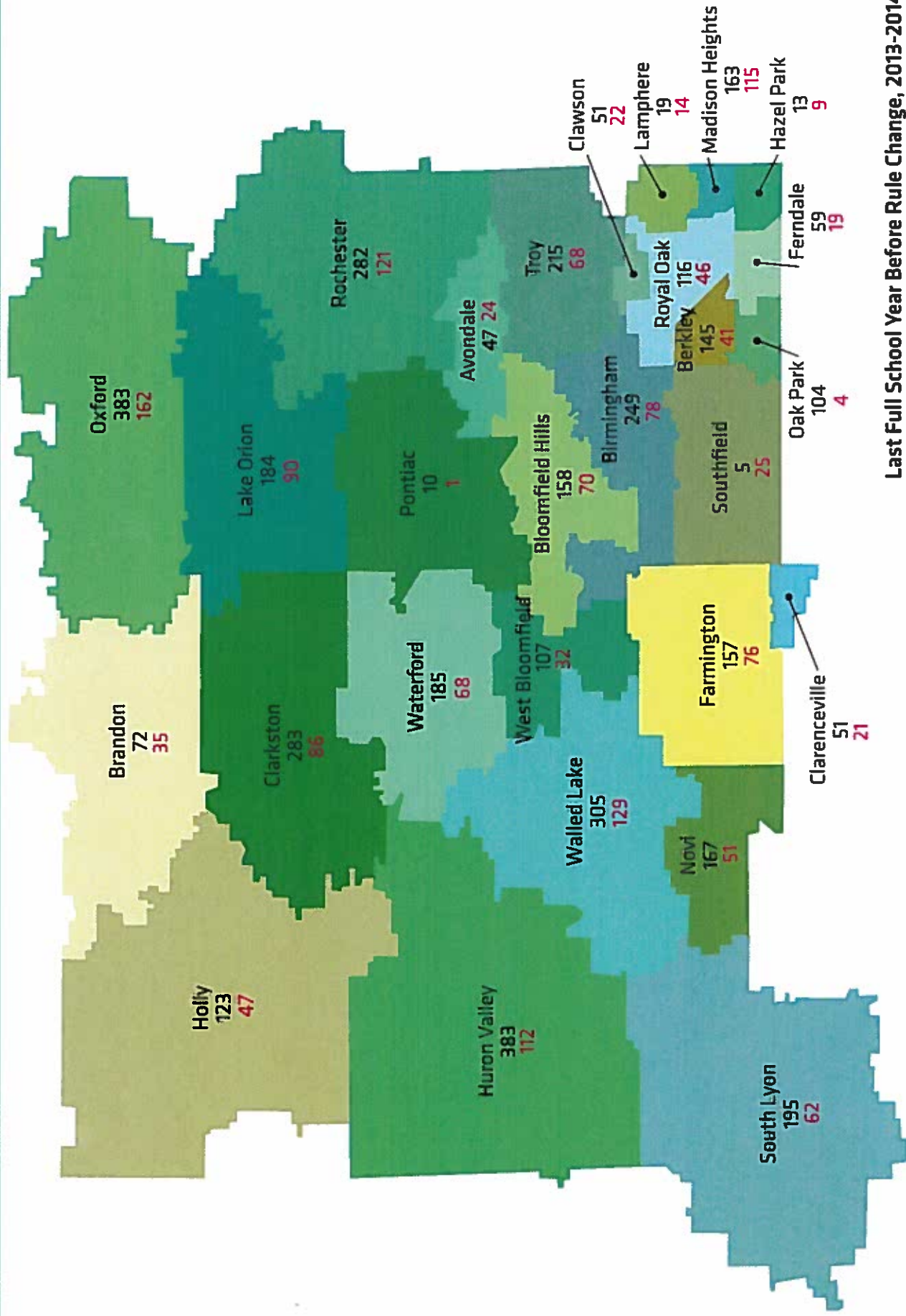
The waiver education process in Oakland County, like in all of Michigan, has been an unqualified success with school waiver rates dropping by more than half from 9.0% to 3.5% in the first full year of the new waiver rule.

We have consistently trained our staff to provide individualized sessions and to understand that almost all parents and guardians have different types and levels of concerns. Our staff meets the clients with their concerns in mind by listening to them with an empathetic ear. During 2015 and 2016, only two-thirds of the non-medical waivers that we issued were turned into childcare centers and schools. On the other hand, one third of parents and guardians indicated that they were interested in vaccines at a later date for their children. It seems likely that at least some of the waivers were not reported because parents and guardians vaccinated their children.

Thank you for allowing us to provide this testimony today. Again, I urge you to oppose both House Bills 4425 and 4426.

Attachments: Oakland County Public Health School Waiver Reduction by District

# Oakland County Public School Waiver Reduction by District



**Last Full School Year Before Rule Change, 2013-2014**  
**First Full School Year After Rule Change, 2015-2016**

Oakland County Health Division achieved a 74% reduction in the number of school waivers from the 2013-2014 school year to the 2015-2016 school year.

Includes both medical and nonmedical waivers for kindergarten, 6th grade, 7th grade, and new enrollment to the school district.